

REFUGEE

Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal

resettlement

Volume 7, Issue 3

May 2006

2006 ARIZONA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CONFERENCE EDUCATES, ENTERTAINS

INSIDE

Thank you from the State Coordinator	2
Roundtable/breakout sessions overview	3
Monday evening festivities	4
Exhibitors provide products and information	7

The morning of April 3rd found the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix once again packed with refugee resettlement professionals, educators, law enforcement personnel, volunteer service providers and refugees. This year's conference, with attendance in excess of 350 was full of questions to be answered, goals to be met, but most of all an abundance of HOPE. By the end of the conference, the obvious commitment by all attending, left everyone with a twelve-

month focus and ways to achieve their goals.

Known as one of the leading states in the RRP, Arizona is constantly aware of the impending needs of the newly landed arrived refugee. The refugees' needs

have been put in the very capable hands of Charles Shipman, State Refugee Coordinator and his staff, in coordination with services providers and community organizations. At this year's conference, Shipman introduced two keynote speakers whose everyday lives revolve around the legalities, safety and assimilation of the refugees entering into the United States.

JEANNE A. BUTTERFIELD LAUNCHES EVENT

Leading off the first morning as keynote speaker was the Executive Director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Jeanne A. Butterfield. The core subject of her talk revolved around Immigration Reform: Fighting the Restrictionist Agenda. There's no doubt that there has been a battle in congress for decades on how to regulate the flow of immigrants into the states. The one view that all of the sectors agree upon is that our current immigration system is broken and finding the answers needs to be treated with a sense of urgency.

Several of Butterfield's focal points hit close to home. The U.S. work force is shrinking and retiring

continued on page 8

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CHOOSES ARIZONA CONFERENCE AS FIRST OFFICIAL STATE VISIT



ORR Director Martha E. Newton

On February 27 of this year, Martha E. Newton was appointed as the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Under her leadership, she directs all assistance that supports refugee resettlement within the United States. Charles Shipman acted quickly when he learned of Newton's appointment, securing her as a guest speaker during the first day's luncheon.

The Arizona Refugee Resettlement Conference was Newton's first appearance since her appointment in February. She highlighted such topics as funding for healthcare and how her agency is geared to the changing needs of today's refugees. She also stated that within their mission statement they define the principles of resettlement. More than once we heard her say we're "Turning Rhetoric into Reality."

Accompanying Newton to the Arizona conference was Office of Resettlement COO, Ken Tato. Newton and Tato made themselves readily available to answer questions and sit in on breakout sessions throughout the two-day conference.

THANK YOU FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR

Dear Friends,

This issue of the *Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal* highlights the events of the 2006 Arizona



Planning Committee Chair Linda McAllister, center, thanks Shannon Martin, left, and Brandy Richardson, right for their hard work on this year's conference.

State Refugee Conference, Beyond Flight. The immense success of the event was due to the dedication and hard work of the planning committee, led by Linda McAllister, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Katherine Christian & Assoc., Inc. who served as the event organizers. Our sincerest thanks to the following individuals who served on

this year's planning committee:

- Dorothy Balser, Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest
- Jeannine Chapelle, La Frontera Center, Inc.
- Ssambo Dul, Community Outreach & Advocacy for Refugees (COAR)
- Calla Floyd, Catholic Charities
- Amanda Free, Betania Community Center
- Richard Galindo, Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking (ALERT)
- Gail Gibbons, Department of Economic Security (DES)
- Kathy Greene, DES
- Linda Luegering, Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
- Linda McAllister, IRC
- Frank Migali, Arizona Department of Education
- Jeff Ortagus, Arizona DES Policy Support Team
- Betsy Parkes, ITRC
- Rosalind Ribera, Arizona Refugee Community Center
- Amra Sabanic, Tucson International Alliance of Refugee Communities
- Carla Sandine, IRC
- Bonnie Wood, Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program

Additional thanks to Mullins Creative, Inc. for donating full color for this edition as well as additional printing and postage costs to ensure every conference attendee receives a personal copy.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2007 Arizona Refugee Resettlement Conference.

Warmly,

Charles Shipman
State Refugee Coordinator
Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program ■

REFUGEE Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal resettlement

The *Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal* is a quarterly publication produced by the Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program which is federally funded and administered by the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Currently, the publication is circulated to 400 program providers, members of the refugee community and other interested parties.

Editorial contributions are accepted. Materials will be edited for political and/or religious viewpoints, grammar, style and length. The Department of Economic Security reserves the right to refuse any articles submitted. For editorial standards, please contact The Write Advantage, Inc. at (480) 941-8202 or e-mail at editorial@write4biz.com.

The Department of Economic Security is not responsible for opinions or views stated in bylined articles.

ARIZONA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM
STATE COORDINATOR
AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Charles Shipman

PUBLICATION PRODUCTION
Mullins Creative, Inc.
(480) 941-8202
e-mail: vickie@MullinsCreative.com

Copyright 2006 by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, which is solely responsible for the editorial content. All rights reserved.

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Community Services Administration
1789 W. Jefferson St., Site Code 086Z
P.O. Box 6123, Phoenix, AZ 85005
(602) 542-6600 • Fax: (602) 542-6400
www.de.state.az.us

For additional copies of the newsletter go to
www.de.state.az.us/links/csa_web/index.asp

This document available in alternate formats by contacting the ADA Coordinator at (602) 542-6600.



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, LEARNING

Each morning and afternoon of the conference, roundtable discussions or breakout sessions were offered. Within these sessions, the attendees were able to explore ways to improve the assistance and services refugees need as they begin to build their new lives; ways of overcoming the barriers due to their lack of English language skills; employment challenges; mental and physical healthcare, to anti-trafficking. Groups such as these, that are open for all attending, create knowledge and awareness. They have proven to be the glue that binds together the common goals of each service organization and resettlement group. While attendees could choose from tracks that included Education, Employment, Health, Refugee Services and MAA Development, the following highlights some of the 31 topics offered during the course of the two-day event.



MAYBE SUSAN WILKINS

Q What do you hope to learn from this conference?

A *I would like to learn more about the refugee community as a whole. But, more importantly, share information about the importance of early childhood education and the many services our agency provides.*

GRASS ROOTS EFFORTS TO SERVE REFUGEES

As Carolyn J. Manning, MPA Director, The Welcome to America Project stood up and introduced herself and described the motivation for her organization, the audience became very focused on her presentation. Manning's growing group of volunteers has made a great impact on the lives of many refugee families here in the Phoenix Valley. Manning and her volunteers collect volumes of household items, furniture, and personal items free of charge to refugee families who have been recommended by case managers. These goods make up the first stepping stones of a family's new home. A newly resettled refugee family can face each new day with a renewed sense of peace and well being.

As Manning closed she touched on a few of the organizations goals for the following twelve-month period. The ultimate goal is to be of service to twice as many families as last year. In order to do this, fund raisers and donations will help purchase a new delivery truck plus expand the now over-flowing storage space. Each day as household goods and furniture are delivered to a new refugee family, the feeling of belonging starts to grow.



AMILA GLISIC

Q What do you hope to learn from this conference?

A *I work as an office coordinator and would like to learn how to fit the refugees in for better jobs and take the 101 class about education to get back to the basics.*

ISKASH*TAA REFUGEE HARVESTING NETWORK

In 2003 Dr. Barbara Eiswerth launched a very unique organization. She saw the need for fresh fruits and vegetables to be distributed free of charge to refugees and their families. Arizona, being a produce-producing state twelve months out of the year, was the place to start. She began by asking local families to donate their extra fruits and vegetables. Soon fifty families in Tucson became involved and the program began to blossom. Volunteers either pick and bag the produce or deliver the goods. This not only has become a community project but a recognized national endeavor as well. As a result of Eiswerth's program, off-springs of her model have taken root. Many cities have taken great strides to incorporate the refugee community in their own civic events. You will now see refugees taking part in Earth Days all around the country. City fairs will support booths displaying the wares and information about the local refugee community. Most any city event has a reason and space to be a refugee's best advocate these days.

These community events have also inspired many of the refugees to become "Micro Marketing Entrepreneurs." Their talents and skills that they have brought with them from their homeland can now be enjoyed and developed in a safe environment. The highly skilled seamstress, a talented artist, the stonemason, to the author – you will see these small micro marketing companies nurture themselves into thriving corporations. In this breakout meeting someone asked how did you accomplish all this in such a short amount of time. Eiswerth's response was, "All you have to do is ask." *continued on page 6*



Dr. Barbara Eiswerth shared her story of the refugee harvesting network bearing "fruit" in Tucson.

AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL FESTIVITIES

With the first day of the conference at an end, it was time to celebrate a day of networking and learning and most of all new friendships. One of the best ways we all enjoy doing this is with the art of dance. The evening started off with the Africa Tam Tam led by Emmy Ayafor. The audience was captivated by the expertise and enthusiasm of the dancers. For additional information on the African Tam Tam, visit their website at www.africantamtam.com.



Hue Blair, recipient of the Arizona Refugee Resettlement Honors



Jill Rich, recipient of the Arizona Refugee Champions award

RRP RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

As dinner was served Charles Shipman and staff members awarded Hue Blair with the "Refugee Resettlement Honors." This award is a tribute to an Arizona refugee resettlement professional for outstanding service and one who provides hope and opportunity to refugees fleeing persecution and tyranny.

The Arizona Refugee Champions Award was bestowed on Jill Rich. This award is given in recognition of outstanding humanitarian contributions to refugee resettlement in Arizona.

As dessert was served, twenty-three people representing thirteen countries from around the world shared their traditional and holiday fashions with all. The colors and fabrics were next to none. The fashion runways of New York would have envied the energy and excitement felt as each country's traditional dress was proudly shared by the models.. Placed at the end of the runway path was a sign that meaningful to all: Along the Path of Freedom Lie the Seeds of Hope.

The Meskhetian Turk Dancers led by Sarvar Tedorov topped off the evening. Sarvar and his dancers captivated the audience and even inspired dancing in the aisles by most of the dinner guests as the evening concluded. WHAT A NIGHT!



ES-THE ART OF DANCE, DRESS



PATH OF FREEDOM
EEDS OF HOPE



BREAK-OUTS COVER HEALTH, ECONOMIC ISSUES

continued from page 3

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

When a community recognizes the importance of developing strong financial programs for the resident refugee, they are building a stronger financial foundation for all residents. Inna Kinney, President of the Economic and Community Development Institute in Columbus, Ohio is a strong believer in these words. The nucleus of her career has centered on developing



CHRISTINE DAVIS

Q What do you hope to learn from this conference?

A *I would want to gain as much knowledge as possible as to what we can do to help settle the refugees — what can I, just one little person do to help them.*

strong life-skill programs for the newly landed arrived refugee and their families. Her roll as President of the ECDI centers on the development and collaborative efforts between social service agencies, corporations, banks, foundations, government agencies, plus fundraising. With an understanding of her background and the focus of her presentation, the attendees were able to really dig in and visualize how her model would fit their needs and work towards the refugee's best interest.

The ECDI Program has developed an in-depth training curriculum for Microenterprise. Many of the newly landed arrived refugees have highly developed skills and training that they used in their country of origin. The strategically designed components of the ECDI will kick start the refugee's chances of being a successful business owner. A refugee can learn the business procedures necessary to go into business on their own in the U.S. From writing a business plan to applying for a small business loan, or learning how to produce their wares and advertise cost effectively, the ECDI has developed the training classes.

Once the Microentrepreneur has decided on their business path, acquired the necessary training, then it's time to find the funding to go into business. Again the ECDI has developed the rapport necessary with banks, financial institutes, grant foundations, and government agencies that support and lend the monies needed for a start up business.

The Microentrepreneur program that the ECDI set in motion in 1998 is the role model for communities across the country that think aggressively towards their economic future. Inna Kinney and the ECDI have opened the door for potential opportunities in

earned income and social entrepreneurship for all refugees.

TRAFFICKING STILL A MAJOR CONCERN FOR ALL REFUGEES

Several of Tuesday afternoon's sessions delved into the ever-growing problems and legal issues caused by human trafficking. International law enforcement officials estimate that humans are now the third most lucrative commodity traded illegally after drugs and guns. Unfortunately people who are so willing and eager to become a U.S. citizen are very vulnerable to corrupt and unscrupulous scenarios. The International Rescue Committee's Immigration Division, headed up by Abigail M. Price, Director, serves as a watchdog for this type of injustice. Her organization fights human trafficking by providing refugees legal ways to file their naturalization papers. The International Rescue Committee tries to expose those filing fraudulent papers on behalf of unsuspecting refugees. All legal immigration papers must be submitted through the mail. If someone submits bogus immigration papers on behalf of a refugee seeking citizenship, this is considered mail fraud.



CARLOS

Q What do you hope to learn from this conference?

A *I am a refugee from Sudan, I have been here for 2 years. I want to learn how to get refugees involved in the American community.*

Another session that ran parallel to Price's topic was an Anti-Trafficking Criminal Justice Panel hosted by Sgt. Chris Bray, Phoenix Police Department: Jason Dewey, Immigration and Customs and William Solomon, U.S. Attorney's Office-Phoenix. The open panel allowed the attendees to ask questions of the hosts. Most questions were based on the way Arizona has interfaced with the national and international concern for trafficking. The picture the panel members painted was of great concern. The concern centers around the immigrants who want to legally enter the U.S. and be processed according to the immigration laws. They acknowledged that the laws need to be updated to meet the realities of today's world.

HANDS-ON SEMINAR REVIEWS STRATEGIES OF FUNDRAISING

The 2006 ARRP Conference was honored this year to have as a break-out session speaker, Jane Bloom. Bloom is a well-known and respected international

continued on page 7

THIRTY-ONE TOPICS PROVIDE IDEA EXCHANGE



ROLAND DEAH

Q What do you hope to learn from this conference?

A *I am here to learn more about refugees and what facilities and programs are available that the refugees can get. I want to teach the refugee community, and especially the kids at our schools, all about the opportunities out there for them.*

consultant on migration and refugee affairs. During her sessions she defined the parameters of what it takes today to support the daily needs of a MAA. Listening to Bloom share her experiences and knowledge brought to light just how vital the MAA's role is in the refugee's community.

On May 5, 2006 Bloom was gracious enough to take time out of her busy schedule for a follow-up phone call. When asked what she will remember about her experience at the 2006 ARRP Conference she replied, "The Arizona Refugee Network is an incredible collaborative effort. They have their eye on the ball and a very big heart. I say this coming from a national point of view."

UNDERUTILIZATION OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AS A TOOL OF PROTECTION

In addition to his Tuesday morning keynote, Mark Franken, led an afternoon discussion based on this premise: *The President has authorized and the*

Congress has appropriated funds to admit far more refugees than have actually been resettled in the U.S., leaving tens of thousands of refugees, who are in need of durable solutions, stranded.

Five key reasons this happens is:

1. Inadequate mechanisms for identifying and processing refugees in need of resettlement.
2. Interpretation that authorized admissions levels are not targets, but rather ceilings.
3. Deficient management of refugee admissions pipeline.
4. Interpretation of "material support" grounds for exclusion.
5. Lack of political will.

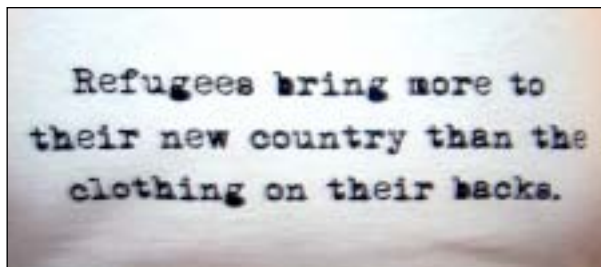
In 2005, the U.S. refugee ceiling was approximately 128,000. Actual refugees resettled was closer to 50,000.

Franken pointed out the complexity of new laws that have been established since 2001. Unfortunately, those laws have created unintended consequences for innocent refugees who have provided material support that now impedes their resettlement opportunities. Advocates are attempting to make technical changes for waivers that would prove these refugees are not terrorists.

For more information on this and other topics critical to the refugee community, Franken encouraged visits to the following website, www.refugeecouncilusa.org ■

EXHIBITORS SHARE BEAUTIFUL, UNIQUE ITEMS

The tables of information set up on the perimeter of the lobby were a wealth of information for those conference attendees who took the time to visit the vendors. As well as brochures and informative collateral materials available at most booths, several first-time vendors brought hand-crafted products to entice savvy shoppers. ■



The words "Einstein was a refugee" and "Refugees bring more to their new country than just the clothing on their backs" were found on the creative t-shirts offered by the IRC as a money-making opportunity and way to draw attention to the plight of refugees.

Father and son, Morad Jasim and Abdullah Mohamad offered hand painted tiles, plates and bowls reflecting an Ancient Turkish tradition. Abdullah was a teacher of art in his homeland and now paints his beautiful work from his home in Tucson where he moved just seven months ago. Abdullah was very honored to have several of his pieces gifted to the conference keynote speakers as thank you gifts. Morad Ceramics may be contacted at 520-440-2074.



Arizona Department of Economic Security
Community Services Administration
1789 W. Jefferson St.
P.O. Box 6123, Site Code 086Z
Phoenix, AZ 85005

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SCOTTSDALE, AZ
PERMIT NO. 195

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS HIGHLIGHT EVENT

continued from page 1

while the economy is still growing. Plus the overwhelming need for qualified white collar as well as blue-collar employees is at an all time high. Many refugees come into this country with very sophisticated and documented degrees and skills. Restrictionist agendas make it hard if not impossible for a new refugee to continue on with their life's work. In wrapping up her talk, Butterfield touched on the importance of professional representation for the people who are the refugees as well as the sponsors of the refugees.

Butterfield had planned to participate both days of the conference. As well as her keynote on Monday, Butterfield was also scheduled to lead a breakout session on Tuesday covering providing legal immigration services. Ironically, important immigration legislation in Washington was at a critical juncture and required her immediate return.

TUESDAY'S BREAKFAST WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER MARK FRANKEN

Charles Shipman started day two of the ARRP Conference with words of encouragement and praise towards all who were attending. He highlighted the

fact that every drop of knowledge shared and the networking between service groups will be one of the best reasons to come back for more in 2007. Shipman then made the opening remarks of introduction for Mark Franken. For many of the attendees Franken needed no introduction. For the past eight years, Franken has worked as the Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Conference's Migration and Refugee Services. Franken's career has been marked by his unwavering compassion and dedication to helping some of societies most forgotten members.

His advocacy towards newcomers to the U.S. has set a definite precedence of the continuing need of a guaranteed commitment between the private and public sectors. Franken described how the partnerships between the private and public sectors have impacted the refugee resettlement process of the refugees. The USCCB is world wide and recognizes the diversity of the refugees' needs from country to country. Listening to Franken speak of his experiences in a compassionate yet matter of fact way leaves no doubt that his dedication towards the refugee in need, will make the difference in countless lives. ■